

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12, 14-26 remain in the application. Claims 2, 5, and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice.
2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12 and 14-26 are patentable over the combination of Jaisimha et al. (US 6,487,663, hereinafter "Jaisimha"), Jerding et al. (US 7,308,697, hereinafter "Jerding") and Fischer et al. (US 7,894,832, hereinafter "Fischer") under 35 USC 103(a).

Applicants respectfully submit that Fischer is not a valid reference. The present application claims priority to Finnish Application No. 20000089, filed on 17 January 2000 and thus has an effective filing date of 17 January 2000. Fischer is the National Stage of PCT/DE99/01733, filed on 14 June 1999, prior to 29 November 2000. Therefore, the earliest date Fischer is effective as a reference is its publication date of 15 June 2000. Because this is after the effective filing date of the present application, Fischer is not a valid reference for the present application.

Therefore, the combination of Jaisimha, Jerding and Fischer fails to render claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12 and 14-26 unpatentable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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6 October 2011
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

Date: 6 October 2011 Signature:


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